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2	UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT				
3	SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK				
4	Case No. 05-44481				
5	x				
6	In the Matter of:				
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8	DELPHI CORPORATION,				
9					
10	Debtor.				
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12	x				
13					
14	United States Bankruptcy Court				
15	One Bowling Green				
16	New York, New York				
17					
18	September 6, 2007				
19	10:03 AM				
20					
21	B E F O R E:				
22	HON. ROBERT D. DRAIN				
23	U.S. BANKRUPTCY JUDGE				
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     HEARING - Settlement Agreement
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     Transcribed by: Christine F. Clayton, PLS, CERT-299
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- 1 PROCEEDINGS
- THE COURT: Please be seated. Okay. Delphi
- 3 Corporation.
- 4 MR. LYONS: Good morning, Your Honor. John Lyons on
- 5 behalf of the Debtors Delphi Corporation and its affiliates.
- 6 This is the 11th claims hearing, Your Honor, that we've had so
- 7 far on these cases, and before I turn the podium over to -- to
- 8 my partner, Mr. Hogan, I'd like to go through some of the
- 9 stipulations that we are going to hand up after the hearing and
- 10 also discuss some other claims matters with Your Honor.
- 11 THE COURT: Okay. So you're just going to follow the
- 12 agenda?
- MR. LYONS: I'm going to follow the agenda, Your
- 14 Honor, until we get to the end, and then I'm going to talk
- 15 about -- before we get to HE Services two other matters.
- 16 THE COURT: Okay.
- 17 MR. LYONS: First, Your Honor, and I'll move rather
- 18 quickly since the stipulations are fairly noncontroversial.
- The first item on the agenda is the claim relating to
- 20 Buffalo Check Cashing. They asserted a non -- a priority claim
- 21 for \$984. The party agreed to settle it as a nonpriority claim
- in the same amount.
- THE COURT: Okay.
- MR. LYONS: Item number two on the agenda is a claim
- originally held by Sanders Lead later sold to Golden Sacks.

- 1 Sanders Lead asserted a reclamation demand in the amount of
- 2 \$78,000 and change. Subsequently, we agreed at a \$79,000
- 3 figure. They also asserted an unsecured nonpriority claim in
- 4 the amount of \$584,000 against DAS LLC. The parties have
- 5 agreed to settle the claim against DAS LLC for a total amount
- of \$574,000, and Goldman is going to reserve the right to
- 7 assert 80,000 of that amount as a reclamation claim.
- 8 THE COURT: Okay.
- 9 MR. LYONS: Those are -- but the amount will be
- 10 settled at 574.
- 11 Agenda item number three relates to the claims of
- 12 Timken US and its various affiliates. We reached an agreement
- with the three Timken entities that are subject of the proofs
- 14 of claim.
- The first proof of claim, 16499, was filed by Timken
- 16 Company asserting an unsecured nonpriority claim in the amount
- of \$2,700,000 and change and an unsecured priority claim in the
- 18 amount of 1.8 million and changes, and a secured amount in the
- amount of \$732,000 and change against Delphi.
- The claim number 16499 was duplicative of a proof of
- 21 claim number 14319, which was filed by U.S. Timken against
- 22 Delphi asserting approximately \$2.8 million.
- The parties have agreed to expunge 16499, but that
- 24 the remaining claim, 14319, should be deemed -- should be
- 25 deemed allowed or should be deemed to assert the amounts and

- 1 classifications asserted in proof of claim 16499.
- 2 Timken Company would be recognized as the holder of
- 3 14319, and U.S. Timken has no right or interest in 14319. so
- 4 it's really getting rid of a duplicate claim and changing the
- 5 holder of the claim.
- 6 THE COURT: Okay.
- 7 MR. LYONS: And we have a stipulation to that effect
- 8 for Your Honor.
- 9 Item number four is the claim of Flow Form Limited.
- 10 Here the claimant asserted a secured claim in the amount of
- 11 pound sterling 225,000 and change. Pursuant to the letter
- 12 agreement -- and that relates to proof of claim 14244 --
- 13 pursuant to a letter of agreement the parties reached on
- 14 February 13th, that claim will be disallowed and expunged in
- 15 its entirety.
- 16 There was a prepetition wire transfer that was, in
- 17 essence, an overpayment to this -- to Flow Form and the debtors
- 18 have agreed to apply 199 pounds sterling of the wire transfer
- 19 to satisfy all pre- and post-petition claims of Flow Form, and
- 20 Flow Form has agreed to repay the debtors 211,000 pounds
- 21 sterling. So we have a stipulation for Your Honor to review on
- 22 that.
- There is no release in that -- in that document, but
- 24 it's just more of a -- we overpaid them prepetition and we're
- 25 going to apply it to -- to get rid of both pre- and post-

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     liability.
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               THE COURT: Okay.
               MR. LYONS: Agenda item number five relates to the
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     claim of Schulte & Company, GMHB. Here Schulte asserted a
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     claim -- a nonpriority unsecured claim in the amount of 189,000
 6
     euros against Delphi.
                            The parties have agreed to settle that
 7
     claim and allow $147,000, basically the currency exchange rate,
 8
     against DAS LLC, so we have a stipulation to that effect.
 9
               Agenda item number six, Free Skill Semiconductor,
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     Inc., the claim -- claimant here initially asserted an
     unsecured nonpriority claim of 6.5 million against DAS LLC.
11
12
     The parties have agreed to settle this claim for the following
13
     method. The Debtors will allow a general unsecured claim in
     the amount of $6.4 million and change against DAS LLC and then
14
15
     another general unsecured claim of $145,000 in the estate of
16
     Delphi Mechatronic Systems, LLC. This agreement actually
17
     relates to a contract assumption agreement that we had worked
     out with them. They were actually owed a lot more prepetition,
18
19
     but this is the remaining residual payment owed to Freescale
20
     under that agreement.
21
               THE COURT:
                           Okay.
                          And we have a stipulation to that effect.
22
               MR. LYONS:
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- Item number seven on the agenda is the claim of SFS 23
- Intec, Inc., and it relates to proof of claim number 1216. The 24
- 25 Claimant, originally a unsecured nonpriority claim of \$48,000

- 1 and change against Delphi Corporation. The parties have agreed
- 2 to settle it for \$41,000 against DAS LLC.
- 3 THE COURT: All right.
- 4 MR. LYONS: Agenda item number eight, a claim filed
- 5 by Marketing Innovators International, Inc., and Liquidity
- 6 Solutions, its assignee, relates to proof of claim number 4387.
- 7 Claimant initially asserted an unsecured nonparty claim for
- 8 \$15,000 and change, and the parties have agreed to settle and
- 9 allow that claim in that same amount.
- 10 THE COURT: Okay.
- MR. LYONS: Agenda item number nine is a claim filed
- 12 by NEC Electronics, later sold to JP Morgan Chase, relating to
- proof of claim numbers 12394 and 16368. The original claim,
- 14 12394, in the amount of 9.7 million and change was asserted as
- an unsecured nonpriority claim against DAS LLC.
- 16 Claimant also asserted proof of claim number 16368 in
- 17 the amount of \$9.9 million and change against Delphi Corp. The
- 18 parties have agreed to settle the claims allowing claim 16368,
- 19 again, the \$9.9 million claim against Delphi, in the amount of
- 20 \$9.5 million and change against DAS LLC and disallowing and
- 21 expunging 12394 in its entirety.
- The Claimant has reserved the right to seek priority
- 23 status for 3.4 million of the claim as -- on the basis it is a
- 24 valid reclamation claim.
- THE COURT: When you have an agreement, as with this

- one and one of the earlier ones, that they're reserving their
- 2 right to seek a reclamation claim, is there a deadline for
- 3 that? I forget. Are there reclamation procedures? Is
- 4 there --
- 5 MR. LYONS: Actually, it's one of the items I was
- 6 going to discuss at the end of the agenda, Your Honor, but --
- 7 THE COURT: Okay.
- 8 MR. LYONS: -- under the procedures, there is a --
- 9 there's a point in time where we need to come back to Your
- 10 Honor to have a determination as to the validity of the
- 11 reclamation claim. The Debtors have reserved a number of
- 12 global defenses, and one of the global defense is the existence
- 13 of the prepetition lender's lien on all the inventory and
- 14 collateral, we believe, is a complete defense. And what we
- 15 were going to propose to do is to -- is to actually file a
- 16 request that it change to the reclamation procedures order. In
- 17 connection with the plan, we were going to offer them the
- 18 ability to just take the plan consideration on a -- you know,
- 19 as a general unsecured claim, and waive the reclamation
- 20 priority portion.
- 21 If they do want to contest it, then we would have --
- 22 we would come back next year and -- and ask Your Honor to take
- 23 a look at the global defense.
- 24 THE COURT: Okay. So you're going to give people the
- 25 chance to look at the plan, look at their treatment under the

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1 plan were they just to have an unsecured claim --
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- 2 MR. LYONS: Yes.
- 3 THE COURT: -- and then -- and then give them fair
- 4 notice as to an election, basically, as to whether they want to
- 5 choose -- not an election pursuant to a planned procedure, but
- 6 just a choice as to whether they want find out reclamation or
- 7 not.
- 8 MR. LYONS: Right, because --
- 9 THE COURT: Okay.
- 10 MR. LYONS: -- if they waive their -- their -- you
- 11 know, their -- their -- you know, priority -- administrative
- 12 priority portion of the claim, then we can allow it, they can
- 13 get paid for --
- 14 THE COURT: Right.
- 15 MR. LYONS: -- plan consideration right away --
- 16 THE COURT: So the reclamation procedures order
- 17 currently doesn't set a specific deadline, it just -- it just
- 18 contemplates a further step in the process where the -- the
- 19 Debtor will -- will flag these issues?
- MR. LYONS: Yes.
- THE COURT: Okay.
- 22 MR. LYONS: Yes. So all these reservations of rights
- are subject to all of our global defenses.
- 24 THE COURT: Okay.
- MR. LYONS: Agenda item number ten, the U.S. Customs

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- and Border Protection claim in the amount of 16202. This is an
- 2 liquidated claim filed against Delphi Diesel Systems
- 3 Corporation. The parties have agreed to disallow and expunge
- 4 this claim in its entirety.
- 5 Agent item number 11 is the claim of New York State
- 6 Department of Taxation and Finance. This involves two claim
- 7 numbers; 9710 and 9711. 9710 asserts an unsecured priority
- 8 claim of \$4,300 and change and an unsecured nonparty claim of
- 9 \$750. 9711 asserts an unsecured priority claim of \$2,600 and
- 10 change, and nonpriority claim of \$250. The parties have agreed
- that both claims will be disallowed and expunged in their
- 12 entirety.
- 13 THE COURT: Okay.
- MR. LYONS: Agenda item number 12, this is a -- three
- 15 proofs of claim filed by Bank of America who is -- who is the
- 16 aircraft leasor to the Debtors. These claims are all in the
- amount of \$38 million and change, so there are three claims for
- 18 \$38 million a piece.
- 19 Claim number 11470 was filed against DAS LLC. Claim
- 20 11457 was filed against Delphi Automotive Systems -- Delphi
- 21 Automotive Systems Human Resources, LLC, and claim 11317 was
- 22 filed against Delphi Corporation.
- We believe these are protective in nature. We did
- 24 file a notice of sufficiency hearing with respect to these
- 25 claims. Since that time, we were able to negotiate with Bank

- of America, and they've agreed to withdraw the claims with
- 2 prejudice. However, in the event that we reject the aircraft
- 3 leases, they'll be automatically reinstated.
- 4 THE COURT: Okay.
- 5 MR. LYONS: So that cleans up quite a bit of --
- 6 amount of claims.
- 7 Agenda item number 13, a claim filed by American
- 8 Casualty Company. American Casualty issued certain surety
- 9 bonds for Customs' duties. The Claimant asserted a claim of
- 10 \$44,080,000 as a priority contingent claim. Again, we believe
- 11 this was protective. We since negotiated with American
- 12 Casualty and they have agreed to have that proof of claim,
- 13 2534, deemed withdrawn without prejudice; however, if Customs
- 14 should call upon the bond, American Casualty will retain the
- 15 right to file for an assignment of any proof of claim filed by
- 16 Customs. We don't think there's any exposure to Customs, Your
- 17 Honor, but nonetheless, they wanted to protect their rights, so
- 18 the claim will be withdrawn.
- 19 THE COURT: All right.
- 20 MR. LYONS: Agenda item number 14, the claim of
- 21 Grigolet Company. The Claimant filed the claim in the amount
- 22 of \$259,000 and change against DAS LLC. The parties have
- agreed to settle that claim in the amount of \$250,000, a
- reduction of 9,000 against DAS LLC.
- 25 Agenda item number 15 is the claim of Tyco

- 1 Electronics. Again, Tyco also entered into a contract
- 2 assumption agreement so this deals with the residual claim. It
- 3 relates to proof of claim number 10707. The original claim was
- 4 in the amount of \$12 million. Since the -- in August the
- 5 parties entered into stipulation that capped Tyco's claim at
- 6 \$4.3 million. We have agreed to a further settlement cap with
- 7 Tyco in the amount of 2.9 million and change, and that
- 8 stipulation we would hand up to Your Honor at the end of the
- 9 hearing.
- 10 THE COURT: All right.
- 11 MR. LYONS: With that, Your Honor, I will turn over
- 12 the -- the podium to my partner, Al Hogan, who gets all the
- 13 easy claims. That's it -- oh, oh, wait. Hold on one second,
- 14 Al.
- Actually, the items I wanted to talk to you about at
- the end of the agenda; we spoke about the reclamation
- 17 procedures. We also are intending on filing an estimation
- 18 motion with Your Honor to estimate contingent unliquidated
- 19 claims --
- 20 THE COURT: For -- for voting or allowance? Or --
- 21 MR. LYONS: For -- to set distribution reserves under
- 22 the plan and for distribution and voting.
- Again, we have a certain number of unliquidated
- 24 contingent claims that, you know, we believe require more of a
- 25 summary estimation procedure than the claims procedures, you

- 1 know, the more thorough due process claims procedures that we
- 2 have, you know, already had Your Honor approve. So it would --
- 3 it would basically envision a more summary proceeding where the
- 4 parties would put in brief with two declarations. You could --
- 5 both parties could submit surresponses, but there wouldn't be
- 6 any discovery and it'd be more of a summary --
- 7 THE COURT: Will this motion include claims that are
- 8 already in the claim objection and allowance procedure track?
- 9 MR. LYONS: They may.
- 10 THE COURT: They may?
- 11 MR. LYONS: They may in certain instances.
- 12 Although -- yes, they may.
- 13 THE COURT: Okay.
- MR. LYONS: That's -- that's they -- they would. So
- 15 again, that would be coming down. Probably, we anticipate
- 16 filing it tomorrow for hearing at the next omnibus hearing in
- 17 September.
- 18 Also, we have a number of responses to an objection
- on late claims. We filed an omnibus objection with respect to
- 20 claims that were not filed by the bar date. There are quite a
- 21 few and we were going to deal with them. They're really not
- 22 susceptible to dealing with in the claims procedures because it
- 23 really just depends on what the -- you know, if there's
- 24 excusable neglect or not and what the prejudice is. So what we
- 25 would envision is, you know, we would put in a brief and we

- 1 would almost treat it like an omnibus claims matter where we
- 2 would put in a brief, trying to set -- you know, segregate the
- 3 claims in various buckets that have common issues, and then --
- 4 and then have those heard at the claims hearing on
- 5 September 28th. We would envision getting a brief well in
- 6 advance of the hearing so Your Honor would have a chance to
- 7 look at it. And the other parties, we'd give them an
- 8 opportunity to file a response, if they would like. But it
- 9 really would not be dealt with under the claims objection
- 10 procedures since it really is just the limited issue of whether
- or not excusable neglect has been satisfied. It doesn't go to
- 12 the merits of the claims itself. So we wanted -- you know, so
- we wanted to do that for the September 28th claims hearing and
- 14 that more truncated kind of briefing schedule for those
- 15 matters.
- 16 THE COURT: Okay. I don't know what else you have on
- 17 -- on the 28th that you expect will be contested, but I'm --
- 18 I'm meeting in Brazil with a group of Brazilian judges and
- 19 flying back on the 26ht of September --
- MR. LYONS: Okay.
- 21 THE COURT: -- which is like a 12-hour flight, so I
- 22 won't have a whole lot of time to prepare. I'll have the 27th,
- 23 I guess, but there are hearings on the 27th, also.
- 24 MR. LYONS: I --
- 25 THE COURT: So it's just a -- you know, if -- if it's

- 1 just those two things, the estimation hearing and the hearing
- on late claims, that shouldn't be a problem, but if there --
- 3 there are other things in addition that you're contemplating
- 4 will be disputed on the 28th, you may want to confer with
- 5 people, because I may not get to everything.
- 6 MR. LYONS: The estimation motion would be returnable
- on the 27th, actually, at the omnibus hearing and --
- 8 THE COURT: Okay.
- 9 MR. LYONS: -- similar to the claims procedures, we
- 10 wouldn't -- unless we'd consensually resolved the estimated
- amount, it would be automatically adjourned for further --
- 12 THE COURT: Well the esti --
- MR. LYONS: -- notice, so there shouldn't be -- I
- 14 wouldn't think, any major con --
- THE COURT: Well, the estimation hearing is on -- on
- 16 procedures, rights? It's not going to be --
- MR. LYONS: Yes.
- 18 THE COURT: -- on the claims themselves.
- MR. LYONS: And people who don't respond to our
- 20 estimates because we're offering them to give us a compromise
- 21 number --
- 22 THE COURT: Oh, so you're going to do both?
- MR. LYONS: So we would do both, but there wouldn't
- 24 be any -- any contested estimation --
- THE COURT: All right. That's fine.

- 1 MR. LYONS: -- matter. So it'd really be late claims
- 2 and it would be the day after the omnibus hearing.
- 3 THE COURT: Okay. That's fine.
- 4 MR. LYONS: Your Honor, that's all I have. Thank
- 5 you.
- 6 THE COURT: Okay.
- 7 MR. HOGAN: Good morning, Judge. Al Hogan of
- 8 Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom, LLP, for the Debtors.
- 9 I'm here this morning with my colleagues, Chris Connors and Amy
- 10 Van Gelder with respect to the contested claim matter for
- claims number 837 of HE Services Company and 838 of Mr. Robert
- 12 Backe, individually, conducted pursuant to this Court's claims
- objections and procedures order.
- Also, in court today, he did make an appearance, but
- 15 I do want to introduce him, is Delphi in-house litigation
- 16 counsel, Mr. Jim Darrien (ph) is here with us today as well,
- 17 and we have our three declarants who will -- we'll get to a
- 18 little bit later in the -- in the morning, I suspect.
- Judge, I know the parties have submitted extensive
- 20 briefing in this matter. Typically, we don't conduct opening
- 21 statements. Unless Your Honor has any questions, I'll save all
- 22 comments, as brief as they maybe, at the end for the end. If
- 23 you have no questions, I would see if you -- willing to
- 24 entertain any opening remarks from Mr. Mastromarco. Other than
- 25 that, I'd suggest we proceed to the evidence.

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              THE COURT: Okay. No, I've read the parties'
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supplemental responses or amended supplemental responses, so my

- 3 preference would be right -- to move right to the evidence.
- MR. MASTROMARCO: Your Honor, Victor Mastromarco on 4
- 5 behalf of HE Services and Mr. Backe.
- 6 I don't -- I'm -- I don't pretend to be, you know, an
- 7 expert in New York bankruptcy procedure, but in my experience
- 8 in federal cases that I deal a lot with with the U.S. District
- 9 Court judges, for a hearing like this -- and the parties have
- 10 attempted to resolve their differences before today. I -- I
- 11 would suggest to the Court that possibly, with your help, and I
- don't know that you do that, all right, we might be able to 12
- 13 bridge the gap here and get this thing resolved so we don't
- have to go forward and waste the Court's time this afternoon. 14
- 15 THE COURT: Well, is that a -- have you discussed
- 16 this with -- with Delphi?
- 17 MR. MASTROMARCO: Yes. I discussed it with them. I
- 18 haven't -- I talked to Mr. Hogan last night. I asked him -- I
- 19 told him that I thought that possibly your involvement may be
- 20 helpful. He did not agree to that at this point, but he hasn't
- 21 said no either.
- 22 Judge -- Judge, I think at this point, MR. HOGAN:
- your involvement as a mediator while on -- I'm sure it'd be 23
- appreciated, I don't think that's an appropriate path for us to 24
- 25 go down at this point in time. I think the parties, as I think

- 1 the Court can tell by the evidentiary submissions, it's been a
- 2 lot of time preparing this hearing, a lot of depositions. The
- 3 briefs are extensive. I think this comes down to whether or
- 4 not there is a potential bargaining range.
- As the Court is aware, we've laid out, in our papers,
- 6 the fact that we believe in allowed claim, and some amount is
- 7 warranted here based on the investigation of the invoices, and
- 8 I just don't think the parties are going to be able to get
- 9 there, and that's unfortunate, but I'm not sure that -- I'm not
- 10 sure that we can do much more about that right now.
- 11 THE COURT: Well, I -- I have at times engaged in
- 12 settlement conferences with parties. Although, I'm always
- somewhat uncomfortable doing that when it's on the eve of a
- 14 trial that I'm going to be deciding.
- 15 If there is a particular point or a particular one or
- 16 two points that the parties believe my preliminary views about
- 17 might lead them to make a decision one way or another on
- 18 settling, I believe I could be useful on that.
- 19 As in California and other states around the country,
- 20 I -- I sometimes give preliminary rulings. I was not going to
- 21 do that here because there are a number of issues involved, but
- 22 if -- if there's a sticking point on a particular issue or one
- or two issues, I'm -- I'm happy to give you both a preliminary
- 24 rule -- ruling on that, which is not binding and which you can
- 25 persuade me -- that's -- it's otherwise over, but I think at

- 1 this point, given all the -- you know, the work that the
- 2 parties have done already, it's only something focused like
- 3 that that I think is probably worth doing. Maybe that's what
- 4 you had in mind anyway is something particularly focused from
- 5 my point of view. But, you know, it strikes me that the law
- 6 here -- the underlying law is something that the parties
- 7 generally agree on. It's just how that's applied to the facts,
- 8 so I'm not sure that there would be such an issue, but you
- 9 know, I leave it up to each of you. And if you want to spend
- 10 five or so minutes discussing that, you can feel free to -- so
- 11 I'll come back in about 20 of.
- MR. MASTROMARCO: Okay, Judge. Thank you.
- 13 THE COURT: I mean I -- I saw you nodding to each
- 14 other. If you really don't think that's productive, then I --
- 15 then I won't -- I won't do it.
- 16 MR. MASTROMARCO: We'll -- if the Court's
- 17 willing to recess for a few minutes, I'll confer with Mr. Lyons
- 18 and with Delphi and we'll see if that's --
- 19 THE COURT: Okay.
- 20 MR. MASTROMARCO: -- something we think will be
- 21 productive.
- 22 (Off record)
- 23 THE COURT: Okay. We're back on the record in the
- 24 Delphi HE Services matter.
- MR. LYONS: Your Honor, John Lyons again for Delphi.

- Well, during the short recess, Your Honor, we were
- 2 able to reach settlement with HE Services and Backe, the terms
- 3 of which I'll read into the record, but we would beg Your
- 4 Court's indulgence to -- to actually get an order out, if we
- 5 could, today. It's very simple and straight forward.
- 6 THE COURT: Okay.
- 7 MR. LYONS: And we're happy to sit and look at any
- 8 drafts of it, but rather than going back to midtown, it would
- 9 be a lot more efficient if we could just get it out right now.
- 10 THE COURT: All right.
- 11 MR. LYONS: But basically, Your Honor, the Debtors
- would -- would give an allowed claim in the amount of \$300,000
- 13 to HE Services or -- or other entity or person designated by
- 14 counsel for HE Services on or before October 31st, 2007.
- 15 So the claims register would be clear. It's a
- 16 \$300,000 claim in favor of HE Services but if they gave us a
- 17 change of beneficiary or whatever it would be by October 31st,
- 18 we would honor that.
- 19 THE COURT: Okay.
- 20 MR. LYONS: And I believe Mr. Mastromarco wants to
- 21 add something as well.
- 22 THE COURT: All right.
- MR. MASTROMARCO: Yes, thank you, Your Honor.
- 24 I would indicate that, as I've discussed with the
- 25 attorneys, that because this is an unusual situation as to the

- 1 way this is going, I have a -- an attorney fee lien, all right,
- 2 that's involved here on the amount, and I just want that to be
- 3 acknowledged on the record. I know that Mr. Backe knows that
- 4 that exists; is that correct, Mr. Backe, if I may ask?
- 5 MR. BACKE: That's correct.
- 6 THE COURT: Okay.
- 7 MR. MASTROMARCO: All right. And thank you very much
- 8 for your time.
- 9 THE COURT: All right. And so in all other respect,
- 10 then the claim would be disallowed?
- 11 MR. LYONS: Yeah, the Backe claim would be expunded,
- and the HE Services would be given an allowed claim of \$300,000
- and the other, you know, the possible ability to change the --
- 14 THE COURT: The payee --
- 15 MR. MASTROMARCO: Let me -- let me correct, that, all
- 16 right? We're not -- what we're going to do is we're going to
- 17 have to designate, you know, what claim is going to be allowed,
- 18 all right? We haven't agreed as to whether --
- 19 THE COURT: Whether it's Mr. Backe's claim or -- or
- 20 HE Services?
- MR. MASTROMARCO: Right.
- 22 THE COURT: That goes to the payee --
- MR. LYONS: Yeah --
- THE COURT: -- I believe.
- MR. LYONS: -- I mean, Your Honor, I think that the

- 1 HE -- we need to have one claim. We can't have two hanging out
- 2 there, so --
- 3 MR. MASTROMARCO: Well, I mean --
- 4 MR. LYONS: -- you can change -- you can change the
- 5 bene -- you can change it to Backe, if you like, by
- 6 October 31st --
- 7 THE COURT: As far as the --
- 8 MR. LYONS: We need --
- 9 THE COURT: -- allowed claim is concerned --
- 10 MR. LYONS: We need to have one allowed claim.
- 11 THE COURT: Yeah.
- MR. LYONS: Not -- we can't have two hanging out
- 13 there. We need to have one.
- MR. MASTROMARCO: Well, I -- the reason -- I have my
- 15 reasons for -- because I represent both, all right, and -- and
- 16 I -- I'm agreeing to settle both for this amount. I want to be
- 17 able to designate later. I don't want to have to dismiss the
- 18 HE Services claim because I may end up --
- 19 THE COURT: All right.
- 20 MR. MASTROMARCO: -- with --
- 21 THE COURT: It seems to me you can allow the two
- 22 claims in -- for an aggregate amount of \$300,000.
- MR. LYONS: 150,000 each?
- MR. MASTROMARCO: No.
- 25 THE COURT: Well, no, just -- just an aggregate

- 1 amount that -- that the amount -- the allowed amount of the two
- 2 claims together would not exceed \$300,000. On a -- it's the
- 3 same amount of money, isn't it?
- 4 MR. LYONS: Yes, but -- but the way the claims
- 5 register works, Your Honor, if you have two \$300,000 claims --
- 6 THE COURT: No, no, that -- that wouldn't be the
- 7 case. You cap the aggregate recovery.
- 8 MR. LYONS: Maybe -- maybe -- I may have a solution
- 9 to this. Can I have two seconds to talk to --
- 10 THE COURT: That's fine. I -- I mean -- I understand
- 11 counsel's point. I understand your point.
- 12 (Whispered conversation)
- 13 MR. LYONS: Okay. This may work, Your Honor. If we
- 14 were to create a new proof of claim number, which we will call
- 15 the HE Services/Backe Claim, an allowed claim in the amount of
- 16 \$300,000, the other two claims would be expunged off the claims
- 17 register, but you would have, then, that -- that --
- 18 THE COURT: That one allowed --
- 19 MR. MASTROMARCO: That would do it -- I think that
- 20 would do it.
- THE COURT: Okay.
- 22 MR. LYONS: Okay. So Your Honor, we've got --
- 23 THE COURT: But other than that, the settlement as
- laid out on the record is -- is what has been agreed to?
- MR. MASTROMARCO: Yes, Your Honor.

- 1 THE COURT: Okay. And now that -- that portion has
- 2 been agreed to as well.
- All right. Let me say, I -- I appreciate counsel
- 4 raising this settlement prospect at the beginning of the
- 5 hearing. As you could tell, I -- I put a -- and I know you all
- 6 have -- quite a bit of work into preparing for the hearing and
- 7 because of that, I have no problem in issuing an order in
- 8 respect of this settlement. I believe I have a very good sense
- 9 of the merits of the claim and the defenses to the claim of
- 10 both HE Services and Mr. Backe. And in light of my assessment
- of the various aspects of the HE Services claim, as well as
- 12 Mr. Backe's claim, and the Debtors' objection to both of them,
- 13 I believe this is a fair settlement in the best interests of
- 14 the Debtors' estate and fair and equitable. That's the extent
- of my approval role under the Bankruptcy Code. The focus is on
- 16 the Debtors' entry into this settlement, but I can tell you,
- 17 Mr. Backe, that I believe this is fair also from HE Services
- 18 and -- and your point of view based on my assessment of the
- 19 merits. Obviously, something might have come out of trial that
- 20 would change that assessment on the merits, but it could also
- 21 have affected it the other way. So I believe that this is a
- 22 fair settlement and -- and I'll approve it.
- MR. MASTROMARCO: Thank you, Your Honor.
- 24 THE COURT: Okay. Now as far as getting the order
- done, do you have a laptop here? Are you going to draft one,

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or do you want me to draft one back in chambers?
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- 2 MR. LYONS: We -- do we have a -- we do have a
- 3 laptop.
- 4 THE COURT: I mean I could do it either way.
- 5 Sometimes it's more efficient for you to draft it and you have
- 6 Mr. Mastroantonio [sic] right here, so you can, you know, go
- 7 over it together. I would think it would be very brief --
- 8 MR. LYONS: Yes.
- 9 THE COURT: -- and simply approve the resolution of
- 10 the claim objection as set forth on the record, and under
- 11 363(b) and 9019.
- MR. LYONS: I think we can get it done before noon,
- 13 Your Honor, if not sooner.
- 14 THE COURT: All right. Well, I'll be around all day,
- 15 so.
- MR. LYONS: Thank you.
- 17 THE COURT: Okay. Thank you very much.
- 18 (Whereupon these proceedings were concluded at
- 19 11:13 a.m.)
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CERTIFICATION I, Christine F. Clayton, PLS, CERT-299, court-approved transcriber, certify that the foregoing is a correct transcript from the official electronic sound recording of the proceedings in the above-entitled matter. September 13, 2007 Signature of Transcriber Date Christine F. Clayton Typed or printed name